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THE NATIONAL WEALTH AND INCOME OF SYRIA

Informed economic sources estimate the present national wealth of Syria at about 27,710,000,000 Syrian pounds, composed of the following: a total of 12 billion pounds in productive agricultural land, estimated at nearly 5 million hectares; 5 billion pounds in unexploited agricultural land; 7 billion pounds in various types of buildings; 450 million pounds in gold now in Syria; 230 million pounds of Syrian currency in circulation; 200 million pounds of securities deposited in banks; 300 million pounds of precious stones present in Syria; 500 million pounds in vehicles and agricultural machinery; 80 million pounds in railroads; 500 million pounds in animal wealth; one billion pounds in goods and commodities currently in Syria; 400 million pounds in mills, factories, and industrial machinery; and 80 million pounds in telephone and radio installations.

The same sources estimate the yearly national agricultural income as follows: 470 million pounds in grain, 100 million pounds in olives, 150 million pounds in fruits and vegetables, 5 million pounds in income from plant grafting, and 250 million pounds in cotton production.

The yearly nonagricultural income of Syria is broken down as follows: 10 million pounds in profit from foreign exchange, 100 million pounds in income from raising cattle and other animals, 900 million pounds in income from industrial production, 50 million pounds in income from buildings leased to foreigners, one million pounds in income from resorts and foreign tourists in Syria, 7 million pounds received from Syrian emigrants abroad, 10 million pounds income from foreign companies, 22 million pounds income from Syrian transit trade, and 10 million pounds income from foreign expenditures in Syria.

The same sources said that the average Syrian individual income for the year 1934 was 180 Syrian pounds, and for the year 1950, it increased to 300 pounds. As to 1952, the individual income is expected to amount to nearly 370 Syrian pounds. These sources added that this income could increase to 1,600 Syrian pounds when the following construction and irrigation projects are carried

- 1 -

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out by the government: port of Latakia, al-Ghab Swamp reclamation, Ar-Rawj project, Aleppo water project, al-Khabur irrigation project, Huran irrigation project, as-Sina River irrigation project, and levees on the Barada, al-Kabir, and al-Yarmuk rivers. The national annual individual income is expected to reach nearly 2,000 Syrian pounds by 1957.

The same sources estimate that nearly 4,500,000 hectares from the total Syrian areas of 184,000 square kilometers have not yet been developed and that close to three fourths of the developed land has not been fully exploited. If these lands are adequately developed, the national yield of grain will increase to 5 million tons a year, and cotton will increase to an unprecedented yield of 300,000 tons per year.

These sources stated that Syrian exports for the period January - September 1952 were as follows: different varieties of grain totaled 188,102 tons; cotton, 27,208 tons; wool, 2,639 tons; and leather, 425 tons. It was estimated that the total national wheat yield for 1952 would amount to 1,500,000 tons, of which 970,000 tons was set aside for domestic consumption and 340,000 tons for export, leaving 100,000 tons to be used for seed for the next season. The yield of cotton was estimated at nearly 60,000 tons, valued at nearly 100 million Syrian pounds, in addition to 20 million pounds of seed cotton.

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- 2 -

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